

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 026891
ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 SS-15 OES-07 L-03
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 SOE-02
DODE-00 DOE-11 SP-02 PM-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06
/114 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/NP/NX:L.WATSON:NRH:B. MCFADDEN (DOE)
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IO/SCT:A. JILLSON
S/AS:R. KELLEY
OES:L. CECCHINI
L/OES:R. SLOANE
ARA:W. SERGEANT

-----121146 012111Z /75

P 012024Z PEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 026891

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:IAEA, TECH, MNUC, PARM, VE, US

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN CONCERN OVER IAEA NUCLEAR MATERIAL

REF: CARACAS 0209

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTTEL, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO RAISE
THE FOLLOWING POINTS WITH TABORDA AND APPROPRIATE MEMBERS
OF THE GOVERNMENT TO CLARIFY US POSITION.

A. THE PRESIDENT IS VERY APPRECIATIVE OF PRESIDENT PEREZ'
PERSONAL SUPPORT ON NON-PROLIFERATION.

B. THE US DOES NOT REPEAT NOT WANT TO INDICATE ANY
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FALLING OFF OF OUR SUPPORT FOR THE GIFT OF URANIUM TO
VENEZUELA.

C. IT IS ESPECIALLY BECAUSE VENEZUELA IS SEEN AS A LEADING
NATION ON NON-PROLIFERATION ISSUES THAT ITS FAILURE TO
CONCLUDE SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO THE NPT AND THE

TREATY OF TLATELOLCO CAN BE PERCEIVED AS A PROBLEM. IN PARTICULAR, OTHER COUNTRIES WITHIN THE REGION MAY BE LESS INCLINED TO TAKE THE FINAL STEPS NECESSARY TO BRING TLATELOLCO INTO EFFECT.

D. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND THAT SAFEGUARDS ARE APPLIED UNDER THE EXISTING TRILATERAL (US/IAEA/VENEZUELA) AGREEMENT CONCRETE MOVEMENT ON THE SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO THE NPT AND TLATELOLCO WOULD FURTHER ENHANCE VENEZUELA'S TRADITIONAL NON-PROLIFERATION STAND.

2. THE US REMINDER ABOUT NEED FOR NRC APPROVAL, WAS IN NO WAY INTENDED AS THREAT TO WITHHOLD MATERIAL BUT SEEMED A NECESSARY CAUTION TO PREVENT ASSUMPTION BY GOV THAT US EXECUTIVE BRANCH DECISION TO ALLOCATE GIFT TO VENEZUELA WOULD PER SE ASSURE EXPORT. SHOULD MORE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS BE RAISED AGAIN BY TABORDA OR ANY OTHER GOV OFFICIAL, OR IF EMBASSY FEELS RESPONSE IS NECESSARY ON TABORDA REMARKS REPORTED REFTTEL, EMBASSY SHOULD DRAW ON FOLLOWING INFORMATION. DRAFT AGREEMENT ON TRANSFER OF FUEL WILL BE CABLED IN NEAR FUTURE.

3. NRC IS AN INDEPENDENT REGULATORY AGENCY, NOT REPEAT NOT PART OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH. IN REVIEWING EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATIONS, NRC OBTAINS EXECUTIVE BRANCH RECOMMENDATIONS, BUT IS NOT OBLIGED TO FOLLOW THEM (ALTHOUGH NORMALLY HAS DONE SO). SEVERAL FACTORS ARE TAKEN INTO CONFIDENTIAL

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ACCOUNT BY EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCIES IN DEVELOPING EXECUTIVE BRANCH RECOMMENDATIONS AND BY NRC INDEPENDENTLY IN REACHING ITS DECISIONS ON LICENSE ISSUANCE. AMONG THESE FACTORS IS RECIPIENT NATION'S POSITION ON NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION; IN THIS CONNECTION, VENEZUELA'S SUPPORT OF US NON-PROLIFERATION POLICIES WOULD NATURALLY BE A STRONG POSITIVE INFLUENCE. OTHER FACTORS CONSIDERED INCLUDE, INTER ALIA, WHETHER AN NPT PARTY HAS FULFILLED ITS NPT COMMITMENT TO CONCLUDE NPT SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT; THE FACT THAT VENEZUELA HAS NOT YET DONE SO WOULD INEVITABLY BE A NEGATIVE FACTOR. WE CANNOT PREDICT WHAT WEIGHT THE NRC WOULD GIVE VARIOUS FACTORS IN ANY PARTICULAR CASE, BUT GOV CONCLUSION OF NPT SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT BY TIME EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED IS CERTAINLY HIGHLY DESIRABLE. HOWEVER, IF THIS PROVES IMPOSSIBLE, WE BELIEVE THAT LIKELIHOOD OF FAVORABLE NRC ACTION WILL BE STRENGTHENED IF GOV MEANWHILE MAKES SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATING THE REQUIRED AGREEMENT. WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT NRC WOULD GIVE FACTORS DIFFERENT RELATIVE WEIGHTS DEPENDING ON WHETHER OR NOT ANY PROPOSED EXPORT WAS MATERIAL TO BE PROVIDED AS GIFT THROUGH IAEA.

4. WITH RESPECT TO EXECUTIVE BRANCH RECOMMENDATION TO NRC TO LICENSE ANOTHER SHIPMENT OF SLIGHTLY ENRICHED URANIUM (UNDER 3 PERCENT U-235) FOR INDIA'S TARAPUR NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, AS EMBASSY RECOGNIZED THIS IS NOT A GIFT. FURTHERMORE, IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT THE 1963 AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION UNDER WHICH THE TARAPUR REACTORS WERE SUPPLIED IS UNIQUE IN THAT IT PROVIDES FOR USE OF ONLY US-SUPPLIED FUEL FOR THE LIFE OF THE REACTORS, AND INDIA CONTRACTED IN 1966 WITH THE US ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION FOR LONG-TERM SUPPLY OF ENRICHMENT SERVICES. INDIA HAS PROVIDED US WITH WRITTEN ASSURANCE THAT ALL NUCLEAR MATERIAL SUPPLIED FOR OR PRODUCED IN TARAPUR WILL BE USED ONLY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE TARAPUR PLANT (THUS PRECLUDING ANY USE OF SUCH MATERIAL FOR ANY NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE). IN VIEW
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OF THIS, PLUS VARIOUS CONTROLS CONTAINED IN AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION ON TARAPUR, INDIA CURRENTLY MEETS IMMEDIATE EXPORT CRITERIA CONTAINED IN PENDING NON-PROLIFERATION LEGISLATION. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS STRONGLY URGED INDIA TO ACCEPT FULL-SCOPE IAEA SAFEGUARDS ON ALL ITS NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF PENDING LEGISLATION. FRANCE, OF COURSE, IS A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-STATE, THUS NOT ALL NON-PROLIFERATION CONTROLS APPLICABLE TO US EXPORTS TO NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON-STATES ARE RELEVANT TO EXPORTS TO FRANCE. HOWEVER, EXPORTS TO FRANCE ARE SUBJECT TO US-EURATOM AGREEMENT WHICH CONTAINS GUARANTEE OF USE FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES ONLY AND REQUIREMENT FOR MULTINATIONAL EURATOM SAFEGUARDS; AND FRANCE IS CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WITH IAEA WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FOR IAEA SAFEGUARDS WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN FRENCH CIVIL NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES. VANCE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

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ACTIVITIES. VANCE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NPT, NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS, NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS, POLICIES
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Draft Date: 01 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: L.WATSON:NRH:B. MCFADDEN (DOE)
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780048-0877
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802110/aaaafohp.tel
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Litigation History:
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Office: ORIGIN ACDA
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 CARACAS 209
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3452957
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 970826
Subject: VENEZUELAN CONCERN OVER IAEA NUCLEAR MATERIAL
TAGS: MNUC, PARM, TECH, US, VE, IAEA, TECH
To: CARACAS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9e3b9cce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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